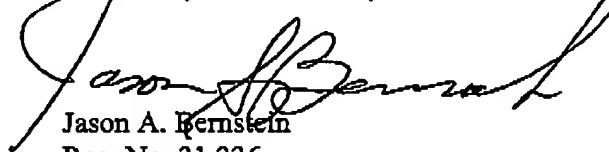


REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for conducting a telephone conference with Kathy Bell, counsel's Paralegal, on Monday, January 12, 2004. The Examiner brought to our attention an unintentional error on pages 3 to 12 of the First Amendment. It was agreed during the conference that a Supplemental First Amendment could be submitted to obviate the error and the Supplemental Amendment would be considered time filed. The Claims have been renumbered from 1 to 37 as indicated in the First Amendment and Claims 31 to 37 have been cancelled. The Supplemental First Amendment containing replacement pages is attached hereto.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the Claims and associated remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the issuance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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